



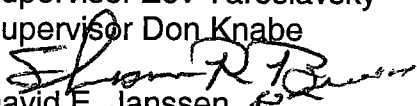
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County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

June 6, 2001

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors

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First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Budget Conference Committee Report No. 3

Conference Committee activities came to an abrupt halt at about half past four yesterday when Senator Peace attempted to compel action on his motion to adopt a blanket \$1 billion cut where the specific items of reduction would be identified by a yet-unnamed working group. Assembly Member Cardenas indicated that the appropriate working group was the Conference Committee. This response prompted another motion by Senator Peace to take the \$1 billion out of K-14 funding. When Chairman Cardenas attempted to return the Committee to consideration of individual budget items, Senator Peace indicated that he would not participate further until the Chair met with him in private. At that point the Committee was adjourned until 10:00 am Thursday or upon the call of the Chair.

Prior to adjournment, the Conference Committee debate revealed that there is no agreement on the amount of available revenues and the appropriate size of the reserve. Both Conference Chair Tony Cardenas and Conference Co-Chair Steve Peace have had numerous exchanges over these two subjects during the course of the Conference hearings. Until the Conferees reconcile those key items, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to complete work on the larger budget items in Conference.

So far, the Conference Committee has completed its first run through of the 400 page Conference Agenda. Many noncontroversial issues were "closed", but a significant number of items were left open including \$5 million for El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park and \$50 million for Trauma Centers. Several augmentations in funding for mental health, all CalWORKs issues, all foster care issues, and a significant portion of education funding were also left open.

The Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office were asked to review the special funds "sweep" which was included in the Senate version of the Budget. Specifically, they were charged with evaluating the legality of moving each of these funds into the State General Fund.

Pursuit of County Positions on the Shortage of Health Professionals

AB 652 (Horton) and SB 760 (Murray) would provide funding and/or programs to address the critical shortage of health professionals in California. **The Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that the County support these bills, and we concur.** Both bills are briefly described below.

AB 652 (Horton), as amended on May 31, 2001, appropriates \$2 million to create the Health Professions Education and Outreach for Medically Underserved Communities and Populations Act. This three-year pilot program, administered by the University of California, would establish or continue educational outreach recruitment programs targeting medically underserved and educationally disadvantaged communities and populations. The program is intended to: 1) recruit college and university students from these communities and populations and facilitate their entry into health professional schools; 2) create health professional outreach programs for elementary and secondary schools with similarly disadvantaged populations; and 3) develop programs through the University of California's schools of dentistry and medicine to recruit and prepare students for service in medically underserved rural and urban communities.

DHS indicates that State health professional schools are currently experiencing alarming declines in minority student applications and enrollment. AB 652 would provide a long-term solution to the shortage of physicians and other health professionals with ethnically/culturally diverse backgrounds in medically underserved urban and rural communities. Consistent with Board policy to support legislation which enhances funding for nursing education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, recruitment and retention of nurses, and recruitment of physicians into medically underserved areas, **our Sacramento advocates will be supporting AB 652.** AB 652 is on the Assembly Floor.

SB 760 (Murray), as amended on March 27, 2001, appropriates \$1 million to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to establish the California Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program to repay education loans for health professionals who agree to work in medically underserved areas. It requires OSHPD to administer this loan program using the same general guidelines applicable to the Federal National Health Service Corps State Loan Repayment Program except that 1) no matching funds would be

required from the practice site areas, and 2) practice sites would be required to include areas where there is a shortage of primary care family physicians.

DHS indicates that there is a critical shortage of primary medical care doctors practicing in medically underserved areas. The existing Federal program only addresses a small part of the need nationwide and requires a 50 percent match from the practice site, which is a barrier to the County's utilization of the program and would not be required under SB 760, which is State funded. Consistent with Board policy to support legislation which enhances funding for nursing education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, recruitment and retention of nurses, and recruitment of physicians into medically underserved areas, **our Sacramento advocates will be supporting SB 760.** SB 760 is on the Senate Floor.

Status of County Interest Legislation

County-supported AB 56 (Hertzberg), which provides \$300 million to assist counties in the purchase of updated voting systems, was amended on June 4, 2001 to substitute State general obligation bonds as the source of funding. The 25 percent local match requirement remains in the amended version of the bill. AB 56 is now entitled the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002 and is currently in the Assembly Third Reading File.

County-supported AB 70 (Wright), which appropriated \$25 million for the State to purchase firefighting thermal imaging equipment on behalf of local and State agencies, was amended on May 31, 2001 to eliminate the appropriation and include a statement of legislative intent to make an appropriation from the General Fund. AB 70 passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and was sent back to the Assembly Second Reading File.

When presenting **County-supported AB 686 (Hertzberg)** on the Assembly Floor today, the Speaker said that California has another looming crisis in addition to energy, and that is saving the State's 44 financially-strapped trauma centers. Speaker Hertzberg reminded his house that the Assembly's version of the budget contains a \$50 million appropriation to fund the bill. As he did in the Assembly Health Committee, Assembly Member Keith Richman strongly endorsed the bill and stated that while emergency departments are important, there is a distinct difference between trauma centers and emergency departments. AB 686 passed the Assembly on a vote of 76-0, and now moves to the Senate, where it is expected to be assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

County-sponsored AB 690 (Wesson), which would require candidates, committees or other organizations to disclose who is paying for telephone calls that advocate support of, or opposition to, a candidate and/or a ballot measure, passed out of the Assembly on the consent calendar on June 4, 2001 and now goes to the Senate.

County-supported AB 1119 (Hertzberg), which provides foster youth with financial assistance after age 18 and an internet-based system to access children's health and educational history, passed the Assembly on a vote of 72-0.

County-sponsored AB 1206 (Cedillo), which made various legislative findings relating to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic District, was amended on May 31, 2001 to require the State Department of Parks and Recreation to grant \$5 million to the Historic District upon appropriation of funds in the annual Budget Act. AB 1206 passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee and was sent back to the Assembly Second Reading File.

County-supported AB 1536 (Cardenas), which appropriated \$1.5 million for a pilot project to create a truancy court in Los Angeles County, was amended on May 31, 2001 to delete the \$1.5 million appropriation and establish the sunset date as January 1, 2004.

County-supported SB 10 (Soto), which repeals the sunset clause on the Safe Routes to School construction program, passed out of the Senate on June 4, 2001 on a 25 to 11 vote and now goes to the Assembly.

County-supported SB 574 (Polanco), which would have enacted the Juvenile Facility Capital Expenditure and Bond Act of 2002, was amended on June 4, 2001 to contain language of legislative intent to provide bond funds for juvenile facilities and county temporary shelter care facilities.

County-opposed SB 1027 (Romero), which would provide that registered nurses or other health care workers may not be required to work overtime, passed out of the Senate on June 4, 2001 on a 22 to 12 vote and now goes to the Assembly.

Each Supervisor
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We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MS:md

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities
 City Managers Associations
 Buddy Program Participants